



U.S. Department of Energy

Environmental Management Recovery Act

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NEWS FLASH

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Workers Demolish Buildings at Historic Los Alamos Site, Reach Recovery Act Milestone

“The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding allowed us to accelerate the cleanup of the DP West site, which provides long-term benefits to the environment and the region.”

--Los Alamos National Laboratory Recovery Act Deputy Project Director Gordon Dover

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. – In an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act accomplishment of historic significance, workers at Los Alamos National Laboratory recently demolished the last of 14 buildings at the world’s first industrial plutonium processing facility.

Using \$13.5 million in Recovery Act funds, the Lab demolished all 14 buildings at the DP West site, reducing the Lab’s footprint by more than 100,000 square feet.

The work at DP West is part of the Lab’s projects funded by \$212 million from the Recovery Act. Workers are excavating the Lab’s oldest waste disposal site and demolishing facilities at Technical Area 21, which served various uses during the Manhattan Project and Cold War. DP West is part of Technical Area 21.

With the completion of DP West, 23 of the 24 buildings at Technical Area 21 have been demolished, and the remaining building will be demolished later this year. Recovery Act workers also have installed 16 groundwater monitoring wells.



An aerial photo taken in October shows the last two buildings to be demolished at the DP West site.

Following World War II, state-of-the-art research and production facilities were built at DP West. Finished weapons components for the nation’s fledgling nuclear stockpile, which played a critical role in the early Cold War with the Soviet Union, also were stored at DP West.

The focus at the site shifted to research soon after the war ended. Research at DP West included the development of technologies that supported National Aeronautics and Space Administration space missions and nuclear energy research, most notably in the development of reactor fuels.

“DP West had a unique role in history,” said Gordon Dover, the Lab’s Recovery Act Deputy Project Director.

For more information on EM Recovery Act, visit www.em.doe.gov/emrecovery



A Recovery Act worker suppresses dust during the demolition of Building 21-5, which was part of the DP West site.



EM Environmental Management

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